

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

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Volume 25, Number 10

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2025

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, early arrivals from 6:00 PM

Club Meeting Calendar for 2025

Jan. 16	May 15	Sep. 18
Feb. 20	June 19	Oct. 16
Mar. 20	July 17	Nov. 20
Apr. 17	Aug. 21	Dec. 18

Collecting Early American U.S. silver coinage



A n 1805 Draped Bust dime, LKM-1, R4 graded XF-40 lby PCGS
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 200% to better view the coin.]

During the first decade of the 19th century our silver coinage was still being struck in fairly low numbers although by 1805, the quarter and half dollar blossomed with far greater numbers being struck than the previous dates of the Draped Bust series which began as early as 1796.

The tiny Draped Bust half-dime shown directly above however was produced in fairly low numbers to begin with being struck from 1800 thru 1805 with none coined dated 1804. The **1800, 1801** and the **1803** issues have the highest mintages of the short-run series with the 1803 releasing **37,750** struck by the Philadelphia Mint, but actually **none of the five could ever be considered common dates.**

The **1802** dated half-dime had a mintage of just **3,060** and is an extreme rarity. Priced well beyond all but the wealthiest numismatists, it is doubtful that a middle class collector can acquire one even in the lowest grades. **Finally**, there is the **1805** half-dime--the specimen shown above with a mintage of just **15,600** that is the second in scarcity to the **1802**, yet still quite costly although not nearly as rare or expensive. The author--who always saved up before attending a major--show acquired the **1805** half-dime at an American Numismatic Association Convention held at the Baltimore Convention Center away back in the summer of **2003**. It was fairly expensive even then but he saved up for it and it has since more than doubled in value.



A clearer view of the 1805 Draped Bust half-dime slightly enlarged



An 1805 Draped Bust dime, JR-2, R2 graded AU-58 by NGC
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 200% to better view the coin.]

It would not be until 1805 when the *disme* was also struck in large enough numbers before a collector on a middle class income could afford to acquire an example. Up to then, the mintages of *dismes* were in the four to five figures; well under a hundred thousand; **but starting in 1805**, the Philadelphia Mint released *dismes* in the **six figures** for the first time with a reported mintage of **120,780**. **No *dismes* would be released with the 1806 date** but in the following year, **1807, 165,000 more *dismes* were struck, a record for that period** that would be surpassed in 1814 but with a different design type.

Despite the increases in production even the 1805 and 1807 dated *dismes* are still fairly expensive in the higher grades. And while the 1805 *disme* shown above was certified AU-58, (almost Uncirculated) it was still somewhat costly to obtain **when the writer acquired it at the FUN Show back in 2002.**



An enlargement of the 1805 Draped Bust *disme*

During the first decade of the 19th century, Americans did not necessarily rely on the coins shown in these various articles because they were still fairly supplied by the coinage of Latin America that went back to the late 17th century which were legal tender on our shores until 1857. These included the tiny half *Real* (6 ¼ cents) and the *Real* (12½ cents) plus the *Quarto* (silver quarter), (25 cents), (later nicknamed, 'Two Bits') which were heavily used from 1793 on because prices back then for the basic needs of our citizens were far lower than they were in the 20th and especially the 21st centuries.

The author realizes that some of these early U.S. coins that appear in this article have been displayed in recent newsletters but while doing so, he was pointing out different aspects regarding them.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Our early 19th Century U.S. Quarters



An 1807 Draped Bust quarter, B-1, R2, graded VF-35 by PCGS
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 200% to better view the coin.]

In the first decade of the 19th century the **Draped Bust quarter-dollar** was produced in only four consecutive years with a scant 6,738 being struck in 1804 and the most expensive of the four. The **1805** with 121,394 made plus the **1806** with a reported mintage of 206,124 and lastly, the **1807** with **220,643** are far more collectible, so the writer was able to obtain each date during the late 20th and early 21st centuries in grades ranging from **VF-35** to **XF-45**. He was not able to acquire the rare **1804** however until 2022 **but only grading VG-10**. The **1807 quarter above**, was acquired on line away back in 1999 when a VF-35 specimen was much less expensive than it is today.

The example of the 1807 Draped Bust quarter shown above displays wholly original in appearance with normal wear evenly worn across the coin's surfaces. The coin may have been spent thru half of the 19th century before being saved perhaps as a family heirloom.



The same 1807 Draped Bust quarter enlarged to 175%

Enlarged as shown directly above, the reader will observe the clarity of Robert Scot's artistry. The designs on both sides are perfectly arranged with extreme clarity with **the obverse** displaying the thirteen stars divided by eight stars shown at the left and seven on the right representing the original 13 states. In the center, the major figure, the Bust of Miss Liberty is beautifully displayed. Atop is the word, **LIBERTY** and at the bottom the date, **1807**. Finally, the surfaces of the coin are clear and unblemished for a coin graded just VF -35.

The reverse side of the coin displays a Heraldic Shield with a spread-eagle surrounding it. Above are 13 tiny stars placed between six curved tiny Clouds just above the eagle with the motto, "**E PLURIBUS UNUM**" that appears directly under the eagle's head above the shield. Surrounding the reverse is the legend, **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**. But that's not all! Subtly placed to the right of the upside down U in **UNITED** is **25** at the bottom of the eagle's feathers with the large letter C (meaning cents) to the right just before the second date in **AMERICA** at the bottom of the coin. The Liberty design is supposed to have been used by Scot from a painting of **Anne Bingham Willing**, a Philadelphian beauty supposedly painted by Gilbert Stuart, the great American portrait artist of the period. Finally, while the grade displays some wear, it doesn't lessen the artistry of Robert Scot's artistic talents.

Our Early 19th Century U. S. Half-dollars



An 1806 Draped Bust Half-dollar, O-109, R1 graded XF-45 by PCGS
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

When it comes to the half-dollar; the 1806 issue with a reported mintage of 839,576 has the largest number produced for the type; but in the higher middle grades such as XF-45 the coin was still fairly expensive to acquire. Unlike the smaller valued coinage, **the half-dollar** during this period was used as *specie* by large companies involved in making business transactions or taking major loans, so the half-dollar didn't circulate as much as the lower denominations did.

If one magnifies the page to 150%, you will better observe the differences in the grades between the 1805 quarter shown at left graded only VF-35 and the 1806 half-dollar on the upper right graded slightly higher at XF-45. Merely look at the hair of Miss Liberty on the obverses and one can easily see the clearer lines on the hair in the half-dollar than the slightly lower graded quarter on the previous column.

Are the two coins otherwise exactly the same except for their value? A quick look at the obverse would be "Yes!", but look now at the reverse and the answer would have to be "No!" At the bottom of the reverse on the half-dollar the denomination is not listed. There is no 50 at left which would represent fifty, nor any C to the left that would imply **cents**. With silver dollars suspended back in 1804, the half-dollars was now the highest silver denomination yet was probably spent far less by the public than the quarter. The foregoing said, the author considers the coin shown above, a "gem".



An 1806/5 Draped Bust half-dollar, O-102, R3 graded XF-45 by PCGS

At first glance, the **1806/5** doesn't look like an overdate but once one enlarges the page to 150%, a **tiny dot at the inside of the inside left of the zero and the right side of the top & middle of the 6** appears.



Detail showing the 6/5 over-date

Our Early 19th Century Silver Dollars



An 1800 Draped Bust dollar, BB-195, R4 graded VF-35 by PCGS
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

Our early dollar denominations were first released in 1794 with the Flowing Hair design also created by Robert Scot but in the middle of 1795, the type was replaced by the Draped Bust design with the small eagle on the reverse; later being revised in mid 1798 with the Heraldic Eagle replacing it as shown directly above but with **the 1800 date**. This type was produced thru 1804 although still dated, 1803 before being suspended for thirty years. It would not be until 1834 that the 1804 date would appear on the coin and again in 1835 but in extremely small numbers to be used as gifts to Asian potentates.

Most Draped Bust silver dollars dated from 1795 thru 1803 were struck in the six figures with the **1800** dated dollar having a reported mintage of **220,920** pieces which include numerous die varieties that avid early dollar collectors may try to acquire; some being scarcer than others. The foregoing said; even if one has a more common die variety; early silver dollars are fairly costly today.

This example of the 1800 Draped Bust dollar happens to be a scarcer variety because it has only **ten arrows** on lower left side of the reverse, so it has a higher value as a collectable. This collector was fortunate to acquire the specimen shown back in August 1993 at the same ANA convention he obtained the tiny rare **1805 half dime** shown on page 1 but the dollar coin cost him far less than the scarce 1805 half-dime although still plenty even back in the 1990's. Today it is worth three to four times more however; a good investment over time.

If enlarged sufficiently by the reader, one will discover both the strength and the weakness of this VF-35 graded dollar. First, notice the flatness of the hair between the upper hair and the face and on the reverse, the motto, **E PLURIBUS UNUM** in small letters come out weak yet **the shield** appears strong, and **the ten arrows** shooting up from the lower left of the shield are quite clear if not sharp!. Other weaker features appear that are mainly due to the photograph, not wear!



In this detail from the coin's photo shone directly above, notice the clarity in the shield as well as the **tiny ten arrows** on the enlargement of this portion of the 1800 dollar's reverse. They are strong!

Collecting Early American Copper Coinage



An 1802/0 Draped Bust half-cent C-2, R3 graded VG-8 by Annex
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

The Draped bust half-cent was first released in 1800. The copper coin was 23.5 mm in diameter. **None were dated 2001** but in **1802**, the coin was once again released, this time as an overdate, **1802/1 with the 2 over 1 that is barely visible to the eye** until one magnifies the coin 500% on their computer and even then, the overdate is hardly recognizable. Nevertheless, the coin is scarce and worth a lot more today than when he acquired it at a **major NJ show** back in 1989.

For younger adult club members, one must realize that each generation has its specific transaction's value standards and since the very beginning of our nation, inflation has occurred--with the exception of the a greater portion of the 19th century--but once the 20th century began, inflation has continued to grow, sometimes gradually, other times quicker right thru the first quarter of the 21st century, **so a common date coin** that sold for \$75.00 back in 1989 may sell for \$200 to \$250 today. Regarding a scarce coin that was valued at \$1,000 back in 1990, that same coin could sell for three to four times more in 2025.



An 1803 Draped Bust Large cent, S-254, R1 graded AU-58
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

Our early larger size copper coin age was fairly attractive and the Draped Bust large cent-- especially so in the author's opinion. The 1803 coin however was acquired more recently in 2007 so it already cost plenty due to its fairly high grade but it was worth it. The lovely designed coin--again by our first Chief Engraver, Robert Scot--has lots of eye appeal primarily because it hardly circulated. A cent could purchase a small glass of Rum back then among many other items and was considered the workhorse of the economy during the early years of our nation, but this example didn't see much action, if any.

Upon enlarging the coin, the reader will see how perfectly balanced our first "cents" were. The writing on the coin is simple, well balanced and clear, and **the portrait of Miss Liberty is stunning** (in the writer's opinion) which is why he decided to buy the coin in such a high grade. Notice the beautiful curls on Miss Liberty's hair; the position of the date below showing it clearly as 1803. Now, look at the beauty of the reverse; displaying a beautiful wreath surrounding the coin's value, **"ONE CENT"**, further surrounded by **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** with the tiny **1 over 100** coin's value at the center below. **Simple, while being artistic at the same time!** Imagine what it was like living in America during that period; a nation at last, temporarily free of the rule of Great Britain's taxations.

For a young nation, our early coinage was both functional and extremely artistic and today is cherished worldly.

**AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC.
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 18, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by President, Shelby Plooster. We had 48 members present and 3 guests present.

The Secretary's Report:

The August 21, 2025 minutes were not read. A copy is kept on file.

The Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was sent by email from Stacey Plooster. We have deposited \$18,344.07 in the checking account.

The Prize Winners:

Member, Samantha was the winner of the 50/50 raffle for \$80.00. Mack Smith and Bob Cunningham each won a 1 oz. Silver Eagle.

The Upcoming Fall Coin Show Nov. 21 (Friday) and Nov 22nd Saturday) 2025

Steve Nix - Bourse Chairman. The Coin Show will be held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located at the Grovetown Walmart at exit 190. The dealers can set up Thursday night from 4 pm to 8 pm.. Mr. Sammy Lucky will provide our postcards that we will be mailed. **Thank you! Mr. Lucky!**

We encourage our members to please sign up to help manage the front desk.

Show and Tells:

Everett Price displayed a Proof 69 1990 Eisenhower dollar.

A 2025 Silver Eagle Privy MS 70 was also displayed as well as some Wyoming **Gold-backs currency** made with 1/1000 oz of 24k gold was displayed.

The Program:

Since no member s volunteered a program this month, Arno Safran offered one titled, *Collecting US Half Dollar Coins.*

He started by explaining that our first the US Half Dollar started in 1794 with a Flowing Hair design by Robert Scot, the first mint chief engraver. The coins contained .829 silver from 1794 to 1839 and were changed to 90% beginning in the second portion of 1839 through 1964.

The 1807 had two different types of coins with one designed by Robert Scot from 1797 to

1807 and one designed by John Reich which made its debut in 1807.

In 1804 the dollar was suspended; therefore, making the half dollar the Working Horse of American Currency. In 1839 the Liberty Seated Half-dollar was designed by Christian Gobrecht.

In 1853 arrows had a different amount of silver. In 1854 the 12 rays were taken away. In 1866 "In God We Trust" was added. The Barber Half-Dollars were struck from 1892 to 1915. The Walking half dollar was struck from 1916 to 1947. The Benjamin Franklin half dollar was struck from 1948 to 1963 when the 90 percent Kennedy half dollar was struck; 1965 to 1970 the Kennedy half dollar was 40 percent silver. From 1971 to present the coins were issued in clad.

President Shelby Plooster presented Arno with a certificate of appreciation for his fine program. Thanks Arno.

Old Business:

Perfect attendance has been suspended. Books from Leaphart Coins will be available for a cost of \$12. Program givers will be awarded two Silver Eagles instead of a 1/10 oz. gold coin. Members, please pay your dues. This was the outcome of our Board of Directors Meeting on February 18; 2025. Rent to use the Sunrise Grill was raised from 50 dollars a meeting to 200 dollars a meeting. Shelby stated you must be a paid member to win a door prize.

Upcoming Coin Shows:

The Atlanta Monthly Show October 12, 2025
Marietta, Ga

The Camden, SC club Coin Show
September 19-20, 2025 Camden, SC.

The Pee Dee Coin Show October 11, 2025
Florence, SC

***The South Carolina Numismatic Association
Coin Show, October 23-25, 2025,
Greenville, SC.***

Our monthly Coin Club Auction

Burles Johnson ran the auction (10 lots). Everette Price and William Tucker delivered the goods.

*Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway*

Two Very Special Dollar Coins



A Choice 1759 8-Reales, KM-104 struck at the Mexico City Mint
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

As filler, this month, the writer decided to go back further in time in his numismatic collecting experiences when he first came across the majesty of the early Mexican coinage during the era when England along with Spain ruled the seas and in so doing, he became attracted to virtually all Latin American coinage.

Back in the early 1980's he stopped in at the American Numismatic Society Headquarters and Museum in New York City to view the coins on display. It was there that he first saw his first Hispanic-American 'Piece of Eight' with its famed Pillars of Hercules surrounding a crown over two orbs floating on the sea. He recognized it as the first coin pictured in "**A Guide Book of United States Coins**" (AKA, the Official Red Book). On the other side appeared the crowned coat of arms of the Bourbon dynasty. This represented the most majestic coin he had ever seen so he decided to find out more about Colonial Latin American coinage in general. **Valued at 8 Reales, the Pillar dollar** was the first coin to be machine struck or "milled".

He subsequently learned that the Latin inscription on the Pillars side, *UTRAQUE UNUM* meant "Both Worlds Are One" and the two tiny words on the pillars, *PLUS UTRA* meant "More beyond"; a poetic as well as romantic concept.

What brought his interest in Latin American coinage about during this period was the purchasing of a **1795 Draped Bust dollar** graded only VF-30 that cost him **\$650**, which back in 1992 was still a lot of money. A week later while attending a local NJ county show he came across a **1795 Mexican 8 Reales** graded XF-40 which he acquired for just **\$40**. While the coin showed a **not very attractive King Charles IV on the obverse**, the coin was at the time being used in the young U.S.A. during that period, so **he decided to explore more Mexican coinage as well as Latin American** and in due time came across this specimen of an earlier date **Charles III 8 Reales** in the process. The coin was graded Choice XF and cost only **\$180** back in November of **1992** when he acquired it.



A 1795 8 Reales displaying Charles IV, King of Spain

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